

NIC-04448/84

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

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SP - 177/84  
1 August 1984  
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH: Chairman, National Intelligence Council

FROM: [redacted] Assistant National Intelligence  
Officer for Strategic Programs

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SUBJECT: DCI/SecDef Breakfast Topic: Air Force Refusal to Provide  
Data for NIE on Soviet Air Defense

1. Attempts to negotiate with the Air Force have failed to get the data requested for our use in [redacted] Air Force has cancelled the second negotiations meeting to have taken place this week and informed us that they will provide no data. They have stated that a memo to explain their refusal will be forthcoming. In our dealings with the Air Force we have offered options to accommodate the Air Force's concerns for protecting sensitive data and assuring their proper use; these offers have been to no avail. I request that you raise this topic with the Secretary of Defense and ask his assistance in breaking this impasse.

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2. I have attached talking points for your use with Secretary Weinberger and as background three memoranda (including the original request and refusal) on our attempts to get the data.

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Attachments:  
As stated

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USAF review completed.

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The Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

SP - 130/84  
28 June 1984  
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: National Intelligence Officer for Strategic Programs

SUBJECT: Air Force Refusal to Provide Data for NIE on  
Soviet Air Defense

1. The Air Force has refused to provide data requested by me for [redacted] (my request is Attachment A; the Air Force refusal is Attachment B). Per Bob Gates' recommendation, I request that you appeal to the Secretary of Defense for a reversal of this decision.

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2. The Air Force refusal is not consistent with the DCI/SECDEF agreement on the preparation of net assessments and the provision of US force data to the CIA (see Attachment C) in which the Secretary agreed that the Department of Defense will provide a much freer flow of US force data to the Intelligence Community. The refusal is also not consistent with the commitment made by the Air Force representative at the Terms of Reference meeting for this NIE, to provide data on US forces needed for the Estimate.

3. [redacted] We did not receive a written response until 10 1/2 weeks after our request. (The request was dated 12 April, not 3 May as indicated in their response). Their response was not transmitted until 3 weeks after its signature, and was essentially lost in their bureaucracy until we complained.

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4. The explanations provided by Air Force Intelligence (AF/IN) do not constitute a sufficient basis to refuse the data requested. Their explanation and our reactions follow:

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SUBJECT: Air Force Refusal to Provide Data for NIE on  
Soviet Air Defense

--"...is a task for net assessment." This estimate will not be a net assessment. We need the requested data to provide valid assessments of the capabilities and vulnerabilities of Soviet air defenses against the types of threats they face now and will face in the future.

--"...information is very sensitive ... scenario dependent .... not necessary to conduct a study ... could be used out of context..." We recognize that some of the data is very sensitive, particularly for advanced systems. Perhaps some of the data may need to be withheld, however, we believe that more general data could be provided so as not to jeopardize the specific characteristics of advanced US systems under development. We are willing to work with the Air Force in assuring that the data are used in a fashion consistent with the types of scenarios they may envision. In the process of coordinating the estimate, we intend to work with the Air Force to make sure that these data are not used out of context. As noted in the DCI/SECDEF agreement, we will respect any DoD caveats on the use of their data. We cannot, however, accept their refusal to provide any data.

--"...would prejudice the results." We find this comment a bit insulting. We would be more than glad to incorporate US Air Force planning factors, operational realities, tactics, countermeasures, and other information which would assure that our assessments and evaluations are realistic, accurate, and fair. In any case, we have a good record of caveats in treating Soviet air defense capabilities.

5. Furthermore, AF/IN has not provided a draft of the one section of the NIE that AF/IN promised to provide--one that called for the very data they are now refusing to provide.

6. You should be aware that:

--the operations side of the Air Force (not AF/IN) is most opposed to the release of the requested data and that

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